

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES PROJECT TO MAKE SCHOOLS ENERGY EFFICIENT
Inmates Weatherize North Carolina Public Schools During Holiday Break

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that North Carolina inmates have been making energy-efficiency repairs to public schools during this winter break. This is the second year of a program using prison workers to make energy cost saving improvements at public schools. It is paid for by a \$100,000 contribution by Lowe's Companies, Inc.

"This work saves money and ensures classrooms are comfortable places for children to learn," said Easley. "The donation from Lowe's means the work can be done by inmates at no cost to the schools."

Seventy-three schools in 10 school systems made requests to the Department of Public Instruction to receive the weatherization work. The school systems are: Alamance-Burlington, Cherokee, Gates, Lincoln, Montgomery, Rowan-Salisbury, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin. Last year, 66 schools in 12 school systems had repair work done.

Weatherization projects include caulking and weatherstripping, replacing thermostats, installing wind vapor barriers, replacing cracked windows, upgrading lighting fixtures with energy efficient types, changing air filters and coils in heating and cooling systems, and sealing leaks in ductworks and plumbing.

Labor by inmate crews is free to the school systems. Crews are transported and supervised by Department of Correction staff. No students are on school grounds while inmates are working.

Easley also encouraged public school facility managers to take advantage of a program through which the state shares the costs of facility energy audits, steam trap surveys, and servicing heating and air conditioning and boiler systems for public schools. These actions can improve energy efficiency and reliability of heating systems and can substantially reduce energy bills.

Programs include Facility Energy Audits, which identify where school buildings are using or leaking unnecessary energy. The audits are performed by the North Carolina State University Industrial Extension Service through a partnership with the State Energy Office. The State Energy Office funds \$1,400 of the \$2,000 audit cost. Average annual recommended savings per audit are more than \$46,000.

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